

SB0235-FIN_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Kinnally, Kevin

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 235

Major Information Technology Development Project Fund – Use of Funds

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

Date: January 26, 2021

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 235 as it seeks to ensure the ongoing success of the Statewide Public Interoperability Radio System (MD FiRST) and the advancement of public safety communications across the state.

In 2010, county governments partnered with the State to build an interoperable radio system for first responders to use statewide in an emergency. Several county public safety agencies are realizing the benefits of joining MD FiRST, including the ability to coordinate emergency operations across jurisdictional lines.

Counties appreciate efforts to support and enhance MD FiRST, as it continues to make public safety communications both more inclusive and more effective, particularly in western Maryland and on the Eastern Shore, and serves as a critical link for state and local volunteer emergency responders.

SB 235 expands the purpose of the Major Information Technology Development Project Fund (MITDPF) to require funding for MD FiRST. In order for a project to be eligible for funding through the MITDPF – which is used to pay for major IT development projects across state agencies – it must cost at least \$1 million and generally support critical business functions associated with the public health, education, safety, or financial well-being of Maryland residents.

SB 235 provides much needed resources to ensure effective, reliable emergency communications and data sharing across the state, enhancing public safety in Maryland and in our local communities. Accordingly, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 235.

SB 235_DoIT_MichaelLeahy.pdf

Uploaded by: Mulford, Patrick

Position: FAV

January 20, 2021

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman Kelley:

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) supports Senate Bill 235 - Major Information Technology Development Project Fund – Use of Funds. This legislation would amend the code so that monies paid into the Major Information Technology Development Project Fund (MITDPF) shall be used to support the State telecommunications and computer network and the Maryland FIRST Public Safety Interoperability Radio System.

The current law states that the MITDPF “may” be used to support the State telecommunications and computer network. DoIT would like to clarify that it shall be used for that purpose and that it can also be used for Maryland FIRST. This is the current practice but DoIT would like this bill to clarify the intent of the original legislation.

The MITDPF is crucial to the continued upgrading of information technology and communications systems throughout the state. In FY2021, DoIT is estimated to have fifty-three MITDPs across twenty-five agencies. Without this dedicated funding these projects and the agencies they are intended to help would suffer greatly.

For these reasons, DoIT respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 235.

Best,

Michael G. Leahy